

August 24, 2020

St. Louis County COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Testing

As announced by Dr. Page earlier this week, more than 225,000 COVID-19 tests have been conducted in St. Louis County. The St. Louis County Department of Public Health has administered approximately 12,500 of those tests to the general public at either one of their two clinics or at a pop-up testing location. DPH COVID-19 tests are given to the general public free of charge. DPH also administered an additional 3,000 tests for patients in the corrections system.

As we learn more about the virus, it is becoming more clear that asymptomatic spread is a key factor. Health experts encourage anyone who had close contact with the public to get a test – even those who don't have symptoms and haven't had direct contact with someone who is positive. Testing is available to anyone who requests it. Testing is crucial to our efforts to contain the spread of the virus and is a major factor in understanding the patterns of its spread.

To make an appointment for a free test through St. Louis County Department of Public Health, visit stlcorona.com and click on "COVID-19 Testing." If you don't have access to the internet, call 314-615-0574. Drive-through testing is done at the following DPH clinics:

6121 North Hanley Road in Berkeley
4580 Lindbergh Blvd. in South County

Youth Sports Guidance

The Saint Louis County Department of Public Health has not amended its Youth Sports Guidelines. The current guidelines remain in effect until further notice and are posted online [here](#). Again, no additional changes have been made to Youth Sports Guidance at this time.

Dignified Transfer Center

The governments of St. Louis County and St. Charles County have finalized plans for the demobilization of the Dignified Transfer Center (DTC) located at 4320 Rider Trail N, Earth City, MO 63045. The DTC was originally proposed by the regional health systems, including BJC Health, SSM Health, and Mercy Hospital, after seeing the challenges other regions faced with overrun morgues. In other regions, those challenges led to mass graves and the stockpiling of the bodies of deceased individuals. Determined to not let that happen in the St. Louis region, regional governments granted the health systems' request and initiated an intensive planning process incorporating leaders of area funeral homes, faith leaders from diverse religious groups and other community leaders. Based on that input, the center was designed, built and opened in April to ensure that residents who passed away from COVID-19 were treated with dignity and respect. The center served 57 decedents during its time of operation and has been operated at

a reduced expense than originally projected. The Department of Public Health offers its sincere thanks to the health care leaders who originally proposed the idea and to the community leaders who helped shape how it would work. We all extend our warmest condolences to the families of the people who passed through the DTC during its operations.

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